

# Memorandum

To: All Staff

Date: April 17, 2012

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From: Ken Pimlott, Director  
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)

Subject: CAL FIRE and Muscular Dystrophy (MDA) 2012

The fire service involvement with the Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA) began 58 years ago with the Boston Fire Department. The fire service in the United States and Canada has consistently raised more funds for MDA every year than any other group. This is the beginning of CAL FIRE's fifth year of successful fundraising for the MDA.

Because of your efforts and willingness to get involved, we have raised \$1,371,196.53 for MDA in just four short years. With these accomplishments, CAL FIRE is again ranked #1 in California, with the most funds raised by any California Fire Department within a year's time. We are ranked #2 in the nation, up from #3 last year. Our attainable goal again this year is \$600,000. We can and we must achieve this goal.

MDA is the world's largest non-governmental sponsor of over 330 research projects annually, seeking the causes of and effective treatments for over 40 diseases, including ALS also known as Lou Gehrig's disease. Progress continues to be made in the fight against these terrible diseases, including the recent ability to screen newborn babies for Duchene Muscular Disease (DMD) which is pending regulatory approval. In addition to research, MDA provides funds for the repair and maintenance of wheelchairs, leg braces, communication devices and for the ever popular Kids Camps spread throughout California during the summer months.

Also keep in mind that through research sharing, other diseases are being addressed which may lead to therapies for various forms of Heart Disease, Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, Cancer and more. We will continue our commitment to fundraising efforts so that someday we will attain the goal – a CURE.

All of you who have become involved in our MDA efforts have made such a significant difference to those living with these diseases and their families. If you have not yet signed up to help, please consider donating whatever time you can spare for this worthy cause, even if it's just one or two hours.

As a team, CAL FIRE will continue to make a difference. Encourage your fellow employees to participate and contact your Unit MDA coordinator to find out how to get involved. The following rules must be followed when participating:

- Participation shall not interrupt service
- No overtime shall be incurred
- All participants shall be dressed appropriately and act in a professional manner as representatives of CAL FIRE
- Participation shall be voluntary

I am confident that working together with MDA, we will become the number one fundraiser and a driving force within the nation to help find a cure for those living with the various neuromuscular diseases.